
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NUMBER SIXTY-FIVE (2008)

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH

On April 28, 2008, I verbally declared a state of emergency to exist for the Commonwealth of Virginia based on high winds, flash flooding, and tornadoes throughout the state. These conditions have caused significant property damage and personal injury.

The health and general welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth require that state action be taken to help alleviate the conditions caused by this situation. The effects of this situation constitute a natural disaster wherein human life and public and private property were imperiled, as described in § 44-146.16 of the *Code of Virginia*.

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by § 44-146.17 of the *Code of Virginia*, as Governor and as Director of Emergency Management, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia and by §44-75.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the Commonwealth, and subject always to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby confirm, ratify, and memorialize in writing my verbal orders issued April 28, 2008 wherein I proclaim that a state of emergency exists and direct that appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of both state and local governments to respond to the impacts of the situation, to alleviate any conditions resulting from significant damages, and to implement recovery and mitigation operations and activities so as to return impacted areas to pre-event conditions insofar as possible.

In order to marshal all public resources and appropriate preparedness, response and recovery measures to meet this potential threat and recover from its effects, and in accordance with my authority contained in §44-146.17 of the Emergency Services and Disaster Laws, I hereby order the following protective and restoration measures:

- A. The full implementation by agencies of the state and local governments of Volume 1 (Basic Plan), and Volume 2 (Disaster Recovery Plan) of the Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, as amended, along with other appropriate state agency plans.
- B. Full activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) and Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) employees. Furthermore, I am directing that the VEOC and VERT coordinate state operations in support of potential affected localities and the Commonwealth, to include issuing mission assignments to agencies designated in the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP) and others that may be identified by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management, in consultation with the Secretary of Public Safety, which are needed to provide for the preservation of life, protection of property, and implementation of recovery activities.
- C. The activation, implementation and coordination of appropriate mutual aid agreements and compacts, including the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), and the authorization of the State Coordinator of Emergency Management to enter into any other supplemental agreements, pursuant to §§ 44-146.18(E) and 44-146.28:1 of the *Code of Virginia*, to provide for the evacuation and reception of injured and other persons and the exchange of medical, fire, police, public utility, reconnaissance, welfare, transportation and communications personnel, and equipment and supplies. The State Coordinator of Emergency Management is hereby designated as Virginia's authorized representative within the meaning of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, §44-146.28:1 of the *Code of Virginia*.
- D. The authorization of the Departments of State Police, Transportation and Motor Vehicles to grant temporary overweight, over width, registration, or license exemptions to all carriers transporting essential emergency relief supplies or providing restoration of utilities (electricity, gas, phone, water, wastewater, and cable) in and through any area of the Commonwealth in order to support the disaster response and recovery, regardless of their point of origin or destination.

The axle and gross weights shown below are the maximum allowed, unless otherwise posted.

Any One Axle	24,000 Pounds
Tandem Axles (more than 40 inches but not more than 96 inches spacing between axle centers)	44,000 Pounds
Single Unit (2 Axles)	44,000 Pounds
Single Unit (3 Axles)	54,500 Pounds
Tractor-Semitrailer (4 Axles)	64,500 Pounds
Tractor-Semitrailer (5 or more Axles)	90,000 Pounds
Tractor-Twin Trailers (5 or more Axles)	90,000 Pounds
Other Combinations (5 or more Axles)	90,000 Pounds
Per Inch of Tire Width in Contact with Road Surface	850 Pounds

All over width loads, up to a maximum of 12 feet, must follow Virginia Department of Motor

Vehicles (DMV) hauling permit and safety guidelines.

In addition to described overweight/over width transportation privileges, carriers are also exempt from registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles. This includes the vehicles en route and returning to their home base. The above-cited agencies shall communicate this information to all staff responsible for permit issuance and truck legalization enforcement.

This authorization shall apply to hours worked by any carrier when transporting passengers, property, equipment, food, fuel, construction materials and other critical supplies to or from any portion of the Commonwealth for purpose of providing relief or assistance as a result of this disaster, pursuant to §52-8.4 of the *Code of Virginia*.

The foregoing overweight/over width transportation privileges as well as the regulatory exemption provided by §52-8.4.A of the *Code of Virginia*, and implemented in §19 VAC 30-20-40.B of the "Motor Carrier Safety Regulations," shall remain in effect for 30 days from the onset of the disaster, or until emergency relief is no longer necessary, as determined by the Secretary of Public Safety in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, whichever is earlier.

- E. The discontinuance of provisions authorized in paragraph D above may be implemented and disseminated by publication of administrative notice to all affected and interested parties by the authority I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Public Safety, after consultation with other affected Cabinet-level Secretaries.
- F. The authorization of appropriate oversight boards, commissions and agencies to ease building code restrictions, and to permit emergency demolition, hazardous waste storage or treatment prior to proper disposal, debris removal, emergency landfill siting and operations and other activities necessary to address immediate health and safety needs without regard to time-consuming procedures or formalities and without regard to application or permit fees or royalties. This state of emergency constitutes a major medical emergency under the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Health Governing Emergency Medical Services, pursuant to Article 3.01 (§32.1-111.1 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 32.1, of the *Code of Virginia*, Statewide Emergency Medical Services System and Services, and exemptions specified in the Rules and Regulations regarding patient transport and provider certification in disasters apply.
- G. The authorization of a maximum of \$100,000 for matching funds for the Individuals and Households Program, authorized by The Stafford Act (when presidentially authorized), to be paid from state funds.
- H. The implementation by public agencies under my supervision and control of their emergency assignments as directed in the COVEOP without regard to normal procedures pertaining to performance of public work, entering into contracts, incurring of obligations, or other logistical and support measures of the Emergency Services and Disaster Laws, as provided in §44-146.28 (b) of the *Code of Virginia*.

- I. Upon my approval, the costs incurred by state agencies and other agencies in performing mission assignments through the VEOC of the Commonwealth as defined herein and in Section 44-146.28 of the Code of Virginia, in performing these missions shall be paid from state funds. In addition, up to \$150,000 shall be made available for state response and recovery operations and incident documentation with the Department of Planning and Budget overseeing the release of these funds.
- J. Designation of members and personnel of volunteer, auxiliary and reserve groups including search and rescue (SAR), Virginia Associations of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS), Civil Air Patrol (CAP), member organizations of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES), volunteer fire fighters, and others identified and tasked by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management for specific disaster related mission assignments as representatives of the Commonwealth engaged in emergency services activities within the meaning of the immunity provisions of §44-146.23 (a) of the *Code of Virginia*, in the performance of their specific disaster-related mission assignments.

This Executive Order shall be effective April 28, 2008 and shall remain in full force and effect until June 30, 2009 unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive order. Termination of the Executive Order is not intended to terminate any Federal-type benefits granted or to be granted due to injury or death as a result of service under this Executive Order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 28th Day of April, 2008.

Timothy M. Kaine, Governor

Attest:

Secretary of the Commonwealth